

therefore, it was deemed necessary, that this power should be confided to the General Government; but agriculture, manufactures, and the mechanic arts can only be wisely ordered by municipal regulation. Commerce is one object of legislation, manufactures another, agriculture a third; and if the regulation of commerce implies an unlimited control over every thing which constitutes the object of commerce, it would follow, as a matter of course, that the Federal Government may exert a supreme dominion over the whole labour and capital of the country. This would transform our confederated Government, with strictly limited powers, into an absolute despotism, and of the worst sort, where, under the forms of a free Government, we should have the spirit of a despotic one. This view of the subject, we should deem perfectly conclusive, even if it could not be shewn that the power in question, so far from being granted, was purposely withheld from the Federal Government, by the framers of the Constitution; and that there are provisions of the Constitution, from which it may be fairly inferred, that it was intended to be reserved to the States respectively. It appears from the history of the proceedings of the Convention which framed the Constitution, that the subject of the PROTECTION of *manufactures*, was several times brought distinctly to the view of that body, and that they did not see fit to grant to the Federal Government the power in question. In the original proposition, to confer on Congress the power to impose "duties, imposts and excises," was embraced "*prohibitions* and *restraints*," which may well be supposed to be intended to embrace the protection of manufactures; but it is remarkable, that these words were omitted in the Report of the Committee, on that clause. On the 18th of August a motion was made, "to establish rewards and immunities, for the promotion of agriculture, commerce, trades, and *manufactures*;" but this proposition also failed. On a subsequent day, it was moved, that there should be "a Secretary of Domestic Affairs, &c. whose duty it should be to attend to matters of general police, the state of *agriculture* and *manufactures*, the opening of roads and navigation, and facilitating of intercourse through the U. States; and that he shall, from time to time, recommend such measures and establishments as may tend to promote these objects." This proposition likewise failed, the Constitution containing no provision in conformity therewith.